

I-75 Rest Area Ornamental Plant Project

On May 21, 2014, Genesee County Master Gardener volunteers planted over 1300 annuals to supplement shrubs and perennials contained in the gardens. Nutrients and compost had been added to the gardens based on a soil test that had been taken in 2014.

This project is an educational outreach effort of the Michigan State University Extension Master Gardener volunteers. It is a cooperative endeavor between MSU Extension, Michigan Department of Transportation and the Genesee County Road Commission.

The objectives of this project are to provide a visually pleasing welcome to the visitors' center and to educate homeowners on annual and perennial flowers and shrubs that are proven performers in the Michigan landscape.

These flowers were grown by Walker Farms & Greenhouse in Burton, Michigan. The flowers are available from many greenhouse and garden centers throughout Michigan.

We hope you enjoy the flower displays and learn more about plants you can grow in your garden.

Sincerely,

MMGAGC
Michigan Master Gardeners Association
Genesee County



Ornamental Plants



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At the I-75 Rest Area

***Volunteer
Project
2014***

Plant Listings

Perennial Plants

Annabelle Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens* "Annabelle") A flowering shrub that reaches a height of 3-5 feet at maturity. Produces large, bright white double flowers mid summer to early fall. Prefers moist, well drained soil in partial sun to full shade. Prune to shape before new growth emerges.

Daylily 'Happy Returns' (*Hemerocallis* 'Happy Returns') This moisture adaptable plant grows to a height of 16-18 inches. Plant in full or partial sun. Blooms early summer to fall. Remove spent flowers to promote longer blooming period. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Far East Japanese Silver Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Ferner Osten') Mid size grass reaching a height of 4-5 feet. Plant in full sun to light shade. Dark green foliage. Flowers silvery-purple in fall changing to silver. As with other ornamental grasses leave foliage for winter interest, cutting back in the spring when new growth appears.

Heuchera 'Obsidian' This "coral bells" does well in borders, mass planting, or as a single specimen plant. Dark maroon, almost black leaves with dainty white flowers in June and July. Does best in moist, well drained soil.

Heuchera "Plum Pudding" (*Brizoides* 'Plum Pudding') This "coral bells" is a short 8 inch plant that works well in borders with it's plum purple foliage. Dainty, white flowers in early summer. Is sun tolerant, but for best coloration partial shade may be your best choice.

Hosta 'Francee' (*Liliaceae*) Medium green with creamy-white margin reaching a height of 18-28 inches. Pale lavender flowers in mid to late summer, but is usually chosen for its foliage.

Hosta 'Royal Standard' (*Liliaceae*) Medium green, large leafed reaching a height of 18-28 inches. Pure white flowers in mid to late summer, but is usually chosen for its foliage.

Miniature Fountain Grass 'Little Bunny' (*Pennisetum* "Little Bunny") Short 12 inch green foliage ages to a reddish-brown in the fall. Best grown

in full to mostly sunny area in well-drained soil. Arching seed plums in late summer to fall.

Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light' Common name for this plant is "maiden grass". Narrow green foliage in graceful upright mound clumps that can grow from 4-6 feet in height. Coppery-pink plumes appear in late fall, although in cool summer regions may not appear at all. Well suited to smaller gardens.

Ninebark 'Summer Wine' (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Seward') Compact, dense shrub with wine colored foliage maturing to a height of 5-6 feet. Blooms in spring with pinkish-white, button-like blossoms. Bark on older plants exfoliates into papery strips. Fruit is beautiful in fall.

Purple Coneflower 'Ruby Star' (*Echinacea purpurea* 'Ruby Star') Masses of carmine-red petaled reddish-golden-centered summer borne flowers above rugged dark green course foliage. This plant reaches a height of 2-2.5 feet. Plant in full sun to light shade in well drained soil.

Rose Glow Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* 'Rose Glow') Compact rounded shrub that reaches a height of 4-5 feet. Outstanding, reddish-purple foliage all season with brilliant red fall foliage, small red berries in late fall. Grow in full sun for best color. Prefers well drained soil. Prune to shape for best results spring to early summer.

Russian Sage 'Longin' (*Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Longin') Gray-green pleasantly aromatic foliage accented in late summer and fall with long lasting lavender-blue flowers. Plant in full sun to light shade. Reaches a height of 3-4 feet. Can be left for winter interest. Cut back in spring to about 6-8 inches in height.

Sedum 'Autumn Joy' (*Sedum telephium* 'Autumn Joy') Has light green succulent foliage reaching a height of 24 inches. Produces rosy red flower heads that deepen in color into the fall. Plant in full sun. Requires excellent drainage, drought tolerant. Another great plant that

provides structure in the winter garden.

Sedum 'Lime Zinger' Succulent apple green leaves edged in cherry red grow to form a tight mat of colorful foliage. Large clusters of soft pink flowers blanket the foliage late in the season..

Shasta Daisy 'Becky' (*Chrysanthemum super bum* "Becky") Medium height (2-3 feet). White, single flowers in late spring to summer. Remove flowers as they fade to promote further blossoming.

Summer Snowflake Viburnum (*Viburnum plicatum* 'Summer Snowflake') Compact, dense shrub that matures at 3-5 feet. Profuse white blossoms in the spring with continued sporadic blooming during the summer. Prefers medium moist, well drained soil in full sun to partial shade.

Annuals

Canna 'tropical yellow' A 24-36 inch high large leafed plant. Plant does best in moist, well drained soil. This is a full sun plant

Alyssum 'easter bonnet mix' This is a spreading, trailing plant that grows 4-10 inches in height. A great edging plant. Plant in full sun.

Begonia 'senator white'/'senator scarlet' The begonias grow 8-10 inches high. This variety is ~~bronze leafed~~. Be aware when purchasing for your garden this variety does well in full sun to part shade. For full shade, purchase green leafed varieties.

Angelonia 'raspberry' This plant was one of the top picks in the MSU Annuals Trial Gardens in 2013. It grows to approximately 12 inches in height. Full sun. Angelonias are great performers.

Portulaca 'happy trails tropical mixture' (Moss Ross) Trailing 6-9 inch high edging plant. Great color!

Coleus 'henna' What a show stopper. A coleus that does well in full sun. Coleuses are known more for their texture and color. This variety grows to a height of 18-30 inches.

We will have some prolific re-seeders pop up. **Verbena bonariensis** and **cleome**. Enjoy!